| SI. No. | State | Cities planned to be covered | Total Lines Capacity Planned |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | Jharkhand | 16 | 54200 |
| 5. | North East | 49 | 50800 |
| 6. | Orissa | 38 | 114150 |
| 7. | West Bengal | 35 | 108050 |
| North | | | |
| 8. | Haryana | 40 | 111050 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 20 | 34000 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 14 | 41200 |
| 11. | Punjab | 62 | 290000 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 40 | 137650 |
| 13. | Uttar Pradesh | 91 | 385750 |
| 14. | Uttaranchal | 13 | 59350 |
| South | | | |
| 15. | Andhra Pradesh | 94 | 595600 |
| 16. | Karnataka | 26 | 307150 |
| 17. | Kerala | 100 | 326585 |
| 18. | Tamil Nadu | 68 | 465900 |
| West | | | |
| 19. | Gujarat | 74 | 459750 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 62 | 112900 |
| 21. | Chhattisgarh | 07 | 22950 |
| 22. | Maharashtra | 124 | 495300 |
| | TOTAL : | | 4311435 |

**Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**

207. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whetherTRAI is truly an independent body;

(b) if so, how;

(c) whetherTRAI is providing genuine level playing field to the industry players; and

(d) how does TRAI compare with the regulators in developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been empowered, under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 to carry out functions as considered appropriate in the Indian conditions. The TRAI Act was amended in the year 2000 to strengthen the entire regulatory framework.TRAI is functioning independently in the discharge of the functions entrusted to it under the TRAI Act. TRAI has informed that it has formulated its regulations, and issued its directions and orders on the principles of non-discrimination and to ensure a level playing field; furthermore, all issues of key importance are decided through an open consultation process involving all stakeholders.

**Rural teledensity**

208. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRIJ.CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rural teledensity is abysmally low in the villages as compared to urban teledensity indicating that most of the villages are still not connected by telephone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the private operators have failed to implement their undertaking to extend their infrastructure to rural areas in order to obtain licences; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?